

U.S. EMBASSY CONDEMNS VIOLENCE AT KUSHTIA JOURNALISTS' CONVENTION

DHAKA, MAY 30 -- We have seen reports that on May 29 a large group of armed assailants attacked participants at a journalists' convention in Kushtia, injuring several dozen, and that these assailants were associated with local officials of an important political party. The Embassy condemns this senseless act of violence, and calls on police to bring the attackers to justice and on senior leaders of all political parties to denounce this and any other attack on journalists. As we enter the run-up to the next national election, it is essential that all political parties act to prevent and condemn acts of violence. The media have a vital role to play in promoting a free and fair electoral process, and any attempts to undermine that role should be strongly resisted.

=====

G/R - 2006